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G. A. SMITH'S 'ATLAS OF THE HOLY LAND'.

Atlas of the Historical Geography of the Holy Land. Designed and edited by GEORGE ADAM SMITH, D.D., LL.D., Litt. D., and prepared under the direction of J. G. BARTHOLOMEW, LL.D., F.R.S.E., F.R.G.S. London: HODDER & STOUGHTON. 1915. pp. xxxvi+58 maps; Index.

WE commend this work with unqualified admiration. It comes from the genius of the veteran historical geographer of the Holy Land, Dr. Smith, who with the passing of the great cartographers of Palestine, as Wilson and Kitchener, remains the connecting link with the generation which laid the foundations of the scientific study of the country. To their ability he has added in an unrivalled way the high instinct of historical imagination, which is content, in his fifth decade of active scholarship, to devote itself to the apparently mechanical duty of producing an atlas. But his historical genius and freshness of spirit do not desert him in this tedious work, as is shown in the easy style and attractive exposition of the 'Introductory Notes to Maps', which preface the volume. For in addition to the maps he gives these prefatory notes, naming his authorities, reviewing the historical problems and difficulties, and where necessary giving detailed notes. These constitute in themselves a veritable introduction to the Historical Geography of the subject, so that the work is as much a text-book and source-book as an atlas.

Equally high praise is to be given to the technical execution of the maps, the work of Dr. Bartholomew. The primary subject of the work, the physical cartography of the land, is presented in sixteen maps, Nos. 15-30 (apart from maps presenting the economic,

orographical, and geological features and the vegetation areas, Nos. 10-14). These maps are on the scale of a quarter-inch to the mile, and while of course based on the Great Map of the Palestine Exploration Fund (including now so much as has appeared of Schumacher's survey of the Trans-Jordan), far excels it in clearness of presentation. The difficulty of the use of the Fund's maps in consequence of their mass of physical details and finely printed and jostling names is known to all students. These difficulties have been avoided, and while the Great Map must be resorted to for small details, this work will be a handy substitute for most practical purposes. We have the work of the Palestine Exploration Fund simplified and clarified, with the added advantage which time brings of the more recent solution of vexed questions.

But the material is much richer than the title of the book suggests. The first nine maps present the ancient Semitic world and its empires, concluding with one giving the ancient trade routes to Palestine. Following the large-scale maps of Palestine we have under Part III, 'Palestine at Particular Periods in History of Israel,' Nos. 31-50, presenting the political cartography of the land at different epochs. In addition to the more familiar pre-exilic maps, there is a remarkably useful and scholarly series covering in close succession the complicated history of Palestine from the age of the Maccabees, including the epochs of Alexander Jannaeus, Pompey, Antony, Herod the Great, his sons, Agrippa I, the Procurators, Agrippa II. We know of no other work which so thoroughly exhibits to the eye the kaleidoscopic history of that age. The student has had to consult detail maps for the different periods or create his own from his Schürer. This part must have been the most laborious section of the whole work, for it involved the study of a most intricate mass of details and contradictory opinions.

The last two numbers of this part present 'Plans of Jerusalem at Different Periods', in six maps at one-half inch to the mile, and 'Modern Jerusalem' at a scale of twelve inches to the mile. The latter summarizes the latest discoveries; it does not include

the important excavations pursued on the southern Zion Hill on the grounds of the Assumptionists, published by Father Germer-Durand in the *Revue Biblique*, 1914.

Part IV is devoted to the Christian Era. Of these Nos. 54-57 bear upon Palestine immediately. There is a most useful map, No. 54, of the Palestine of Eusebius and Jerome (and also of the Madaba Mosaic), interesting to both Christian and Jewish scholars; then the maps of the Peutinger Tables and Marinus Sanutus, and finally Syria and Palestine in the time of the Crusades. Any experience with the archaeology of the Holy Land teaches how indispensable this later cartography is, for it is only as we dig down through these later historical strata that we can, following the example of Edward Robinson, work out the identification of Biblical sites. The student will probably be more grateful for these maps of the non-biblical periods than for the stock maps of Palestine which can easily be obtained.

This part also includes maps of particular interest to the student of the New Testament and early Church History. In addition to the usual chart of St. Paul's voyages, there is a fine orographical map of Asia Minor, which will be useful to others than those who wish to study the position of the Seven Churches. Nos. 53 and 53a present the 'Church and the Empire' under Trajan and under Constantine', perhaps not very effectively, as the dispersion of the Christian communities cannot be exhibited on so small a scale. No. 58 gives 'Europe in the Time of the Crusades', and 58a 'The Expansion of Christianity' in the successive ages. No. 59 offers 'Present Political Divisions of Palestine', to which one objection can be offered, that it does not show the delimitations of the Lebanon, up to the present war an autonomous district under the control of the Christian Powers, although the Notes correct this fault with the necessary information. Finally there is a very complete map of the 'Christian Missions in Palestine', No. 60. In this connexion it may be noted that No. 10, the Economic Map of Modern Palestine, gives the location of the Jewish agricultural colonies, although without names. In the notes to this map should be

added in the bibliography *Die jüdische Kolonisation Palästinas*, by Dr. Curt Nauratzki.

An interesting bit of map-making we would suggest for those who are concerned as to the future politics of the country, would be an ethnographic sketch in which the predominance of the different religions, Mohammedan, Jewish, and Christian, might be represented—in which for instance Jerusalem would appear as Jewish, Bethlehem as Christian, Hebron as Muslim.

Our principal stricture of the volume would be the small-scale presentation of the maps of Mesopotamia. In such an inclusive volume, and at a time when Assyriology is playing such a large part in biblical science, we miss a detail map of Babylonia and Assyria. This should present the identifications of the ancient sites. (A useful sketch-map of the latter is to be found in either one of Jastrow's works, his *Aspects of Religious Belief*, or his *Civilization of Babylonia and Assyria*.) The little map of 'Jewish Babylonia' on No. 1 is quite insufficient, omitting even Nippur, which, as appears from the cuneiform reference to the neighbouring Chebar, was one of the chief centres of the exiles. Such a map should also give the various centres of the later Babylonian Judaism.

The volume might also have filled up the lack, so troublesome to students, of an adequate map of Northern Syria. The Palestine Exploration Fund surveyed the land as far as Beirut, but the region to the north remains very much of a *terra incognita* to the historical student. The best one we know of is the map published in the series of the American Archaeological Expedition of 1899-1900, based upon a map of Kiepert, published in Oppenheim's *Vom Mittelmeere zum Persischen Golf*. The geography of Northern Syria while not immediately biblical is of extreme importance for the understanding of the connexions of Palestine with the empires to the north. The survey of this deeply interesting land still awaits execution, a task worthy of the best equipped expedition.

A good map of Arabia, giving the points of historical and archaeological interest, is also a desideratum which the volume

might have filled. But the richness of the work may lead us to expect too much. Among the 'Maps of the Empires of the Ancient World', Nos. 3 and 4, we expect one of the Assyrian Empire at its greatest extent, under Esarhaddon: in its place a map of Nebuchadrezzar's Empire is given.

No. 14, presenting in colours the conditions of the vegetation of Palestine, is very misleading to the layman. A dark green exhibits the 'cultivable lands' and is used for the districts which we generally know of as fertile, like the Hauran, Esdraelon, the Damascus oasis. Most of the rest of the map is coloured light green to exhibit 'limestone hill-lands covered in spring with more or less pasture'. The result would be the idea that by far the greatest part of Palestine and the Lebanon appears as a wilderness fit only for sheep. As such crops as wheat are successfully grown over this hill country, as well as vegetables and especially fruits in great profusion wherever they are cultivated, the map gives an entirely erroneous impression. It is this limestone soil that is Palestine's great agricultural asset, and while the greatest part of it, thanks to the Turk, is to-day a waste, the brilliant patches of cultivation, where the ground is tilled or irrigated, and the remains vouching for the great farming estates that once marked the land, speak for the economic capability of the country. History also shows how the now desert stretches of Eastern Syria and even the volcanic ledges of el-Leja in the Hauran were once seats of a fine culture of the soil. The soil stands there to-day chemically fitted for man's support, often like our own Western lands once marked as desert, waiting only water and the plough to make them blossom as the rose. Strangely enough even Jaffa is put in an area marked 'sandy deserts', whereas it is one of the garden spots of the country. At the present time when the economical development of Palestine is so much in the mind of many, it is unfortunate if an erroneous impression is produced or continued by a map which does not tell the practical conditions. For the economist has to live down the vulgar tradition that Palestine is an unfertile country. If the data be on hand, and probably they could be supplied for many parts by the

Jewish and German colonies and monastic establishments, a map showing the capabilities of the soil would be an extremely valuable asset to the ideas and plans looking towards the economic restoration of the Holy Land.

We conclude with thanking the distinguished compilers of this handsome and scholarly volume for a work which comprehends so much that is vitally necessary to the study of biblical history and its related spheres. It will be for the English-speaking world an indispensable adjunct for the study of the Bible.

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